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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Shervin Erfani

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Docket Administrator (Room 3C-512)

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EXAMINER

CURS, NATHAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/895,948	ERFANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nathan Curs	2633	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 8-10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moy et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035411A1).

Regarding claim 1, Moy et al. disclose an apparatus for providing direct signaling for switching and control of transmissions in an integrated optical network, said apparatus comprising: a plurality of electrical signaling interfaces (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraph 0048) for receiving requests from external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements UD and IUD and paragraphs 0038 to 0040); a processing module for processing said requests from said external signaling networks (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0065); and at least one optical signaling interface for coupling to optical components in said integrated optical network (fig. 1, elements IUD and TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047), said optical signaling interface being operable to transmit processed requests from said processing module for assignment of optical channels for said optical components (paragraphs 0059 and 0060), wherein signaling processed by said processing module from said external signaling networks is provided directly to the optical network components via said optical signaling interface and is independent of legacy signaling methodologies employed by ones of said external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047, where the external signaling is provided

Art Unit: 2633

directly to the OTN via the TND which includes the optical signaling interface; paragraphs 0041 and 0042, which describe a variety of different possible legacy protocols of the UD/IUD external signals; and paragraphs 0099-0102, which describe the signaling across the OTN as independent of the protocols of the external signals, i.e. as based on, for example, MPLS or RSVP).

Regarding claim 8, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical signaling interface couples to said optical components through an optical user network interface (paragraphs 0033, 0036, 0039, 0040 and 0047).

Regarding claim 9, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 8, wherein said apparatus is further operable to control signaling (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0065) of electrical switching devices (paragraph 0041), where the User Devices can be electrical switching devices as disclose by Moy et al., and that couple to said apparatus through an optical service node (fig. 1, element TND and paragraphs 0047 and 0048).

Regarding claim 10, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is operable to assign individual wavelengths in said optical components in accordance with requests from said external signaling networks and allocate calls to existing wavelengths (paragraphs 0059 and 0060).

Regarding claim 16, Moy et al. disclose a method for providing direct signaling for switching and control of transmissions in an integrated optical network, said method comprising: receiving requests from external signaling networks at an electrical signaling interface (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraph 0048 and elements UD and IUD and paragraphs 0038 to 0040); processing said requests from said external signaling networks (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0065); and transmitting processed requests from said processing module via an optical signaling interface that couples to optical components in said integrated optical network

Art Unit: 2633

(fig. 1, elements IUD and TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047) for assignment of optical channels for said optical components (paragraphs 0059 and 0060), wherein said processing step operates to process signaling requests from the external signaling networks for provision directly to the optical network components via said optical signaling network interface, the processed signaling being independent of legacy signaling methodologies employed by ones of said external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047, where the external signaling is provided directly to the OTN via the TND which includes the optical signaling interface; paragraphs 0041 and 0042, which describe a variety of different possible legacy protocols of the UD/IUD external signals, and paragraphs 0099-0102, which describe the signaling across the OTN as independent of the protocols of the external signals, i.e. as based on, for example, MPLS or RSVP).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035411A1) in view of Wei et al. ("Network control and management of a reconfigurable WDM network"; Wei et al.; Military Communications Conference, 1996, IEEE Conference Proceedings, Vol. 2, Oct. 1996, Pages 581-586).

Regarding claim 3, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical components are selected from the group consisting of optical cross connects, add/drop

Art Unit: 2633

multiplexers and optical service nodes (paragraphs 0042 and 0048). Moy et al. do not disclose at least one optical cross connect and optical add/drop multiplexer. Wei et al. disclose an optical network where an optical cross connect can serve as an optical add/drop multiplexer when interfaced with external elements (fig. 1 and page 581, col. 2, 1st paragraph of heading 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the optical cross connect of Wei et al. for the optical cross connects of Moy et al., in order to provide the advantage of using an optical cross connect that can also functional as an optical add/drop multiplexer by interfacing the optical cross connect with external elements, such that separate OXC and optical ADM equipment are not required.

Regarding claim 18, Moy et al. disclose the method of claim 16, wherein said optical components are selected from the group consisting of optical cross connects, add/drop multiplexers and optical service nodes (paragraphs 0042 and 0048). Moy et al. do not disclose at least one optical cross connect and optical add/drop multiplexer. Wei et al. disclose an optical network where an optical cross connect can serve as an optical add/drop multiplexer when interfaced with external elements (fig. 1 and page 581, col. 2, 1st paragraph of heading 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the optical cross connect of Wei et al. for the optical cross connects of Moy et al., in order to provide the advantage of using an optical cross connect that can also functional as an optical add/drop multiplexer by interfacing the optical cross connect with external elements, such that separate OXC and optical ADM equipment are not required.

5. Claims 2, 4-7, 11-14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035411A1) in view of Berg et al. (US Patent No. 6680952).

Regarding claim 2, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 1, wherein said external signaling networks are selected from the group consisting of circuit switched signaling networks and packet switched signaling networks (paragraph 0042), but do not disclose that the group also includes SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling system (ESS) apparatus. However, Moy et al. do disclose that the external signaling networks can be any of a variety of apparatus for transmitting and receiving signals with various electrical or optical transmitting or receiving, and multiplexing, switching, routing, etc. (paragraph 0041). Berg et al. disclose an external network gateway apparatus that handles signaling traffic from a variety of sources (col. 4, lines 30-44), where these sources include SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling systems (col. 6, lines 23-35), and where the external network gateway interfaces to a core network via electrical or optical interfaces (col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the gateway of Berg et al. as one or more of the User Devices of the signaling network of Moy et al. to provide the advantage of interfacing voice, voice over IP, and other signaling services directly with the dynamically provisionable OTN network of Moy et al. to create optical trails through the OTN of dynamic bandwidth corresponding to these additional services.

Regarding claim 4, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processing module is a signaling processor (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0065), and that the external signaling networks can be any of a variety of apparatus for transmitting and receiving signals with various electrical or optical transmitting or receiving, and multiplexing, switching, routing, etc. (paragraph 0041), but do not disclose that said processing module is a call control processor. Berg et al. disclose an external network gateway apparatus that handles signaling traffic from a variety of sources (col. 4, lines 30-44), where these sources include SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling systems (col. 6, lines 23-35), and where the external network

Art Unit: 2633

gateway interfaces to a core network via electrical or optical interfaces (col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the gateway of Berg et al. as one or more of the User Devices of the signaling network of Moy et al. to provide the advantage of interfacing voice, voice over IP, and other signaling services directly with the dynamically provisionable OTN network of Moy et al. to create optical trails through the OTN of dynamic bandwidth corresponding to these additional services. Further, the processor of Moy et al. providing signaling processing for creating optical trails through the OTN of dynamic bandwidth corresponding to these additional call related services would inherently make the signaling processor of Moy et al. a call control processor.

Regarding claim 5, Moy et al. in view of Berg et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 4, further including a signaling and endpoint applications module coupled to said processor module for providing electronic and optical routing decisions (Moy et al.: paragraph 0065), where the firmware or software corresponding to the routing functions of the processor are the signaling and endpoint applications module.

Regarding claim 6, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 5, further including a network management and provisioning module for providing network management interaction for reporting of alarms and receiving commands for provisioning and reconfiguration of said apparatus (Moy et al.: paragraphs 0083 and 0084), where it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the information about TNDs, ports and channels of TNDs, UD's, ports and channels of UD's, etc. of the network management module of Moy et al. would include alarm reporting information, as alarm reporting as part of network management of signaling services is well known in the art.

Regarding claim 7, Moy et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 6, and disclose a network management control system, or system administration module, for dynamic bandwidth provision

Art Unit: 2633

on OTNs, providing an operator interface for administration and maintenance of said system (paragraphs 0005 to 0007).

Regarding claim 11, Moy et al. disclose an apparatus for providing switching fabric independent allocation of transport resources in an integrated optical network, said apparatus comprising: a plurality of electrical signaling interfaces (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraph 0048) for receiving requests from external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements UD and IUD and paragraphs 0038 to 0040); a signaling module for processing said requests from said external signaling networks (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0065); a signaling and endpoint applications module coupled to said signaling and call control module for providing electronic and optical routing decisions (Moy et al.: paragraph 0065), where the firmware or software corresponding to the routing functions of the processor are the signaling and endpoint applications module; a network management and provisioning module for providing network management interaction for reporting of alarms and receiving commands for provisioning and reconfiguration of said apparatus (paragraphs 0083 and 0084), where it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the information about TNDs, ports and channels of TNDs, UDs, ports and channels of UDs, etc. of the network management module of Moy et al. would include alarm reporting information, as alarm reporting as part of network management of signaling services is well known in the art.; and at least one optical signaling network interface for coupling to optical components in said integrated optical network (fig. 1, elements IUD and TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047), said optical signaling interface being operable to transmit processed requests from said signaling module for assignment of optical channels for said optical components (paragraphs 0059 and 0060), wherein signaling processed by said signaling and call control module from the external signaling networks is provided directly to the optical network components via said optical

Art Unit: 2633

signaling network interface and is independent of legacy signaling methodologies employed by ones of said external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047, where the external signaling is provided directly to the OTN via the TND which includes the optical signaling interface; paragraphs 0041 and 0042, which describe a variety of different possible legacy protocols of the UD/IUD external signals; and paragraphs 0099-0102, which describe the signaling across the OTN as independent of the protocols of the external signals, i.e. as based on, for example, MPLS or RSVP). Moy et al. disclose that the external signaling networks can be any of a variety of apparatus for transmitting and receiving signals with various electrical or optical transmitting or receiving, and multiplexing, switching, routing, etc.

(paragraph 0041), but do not disclose that the signaling module is also a call control module.

Berg et al. disclose an external network gateway apparatus that handles signaling traffic from a variety of sources (col. 4, lines 30-44), where these sources include SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling systems (col. 6, lines 23-35) for call signals, and where the external network gateway interfaces to a core network via electrical or optical interfaces (col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the gateway of Berg et al. as one or more of the User Devices of the signaling network of Moy et al. to provide the advantage of interfacing voice, voice over IP, and other signaling services directly with the dynamically provisionable OTN network of Moy et al. to create optical trails through the OTN of dynamic bandwidth corresponding to these additional services.

Further, the processor of Moy et al. providing signaling processing for creating optical trails through the OTN of dynamic bandwidth corresponding to these additional call related services would inherently make the signaling processor of Moy et al. a call control processor.

Regarding claim 12, Moy et al. in view of Berg et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is further operable to control signaling (Moy et al.: fig. 1, element TND

Art Unit: 2633

and paragraph 0065) of electrical switching devices (Moy et al.: paragraph 0041), where the User Devices can be electrical switching devices as disclosed by Moy et al., and that couple to said apparatus through an optical service node (Moy et al.: fig. 1, element TND and paragraphs 0047 and 0048).

Regarding claim 13, Moy et al. in view of Berg et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is operable to assign individual wavelengths in said optical components in accordance with requests from said external signaling networks and allocate calls to existing wavelengths (Moy et al.: paragraphs 0059 and 0060).

Regarding claim 14, Moy et al. in view of Berg et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 11, wherein said external signaling networks are selected from the group consisting of circuit switched signaling networks, packet switched signaling networks (Moy et al.: paragraph 0042), and SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling system (ESS) apparatus (Berg et al.: col. 6, lines 23-35).

Regarding claim 17, Moy et al. disclose the method of claim 16, wherein said external signaling networks are selected from the group consisting of circuit switched signaling networks and packet switched signaling networks (paragraphs 0042), but do not disclose that the group also includes SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling system (ESS) apparatus. However, Moy et al. do disclose that the external signaling networks can be any of a variety of apparatus for transmitting and receiving signals with various electrical or optical transmitting or receiving, and multiplexing, switching, routing, etc. (paragraph 0041). Berg et al. disclose an external network gateway apparatus that handles signaling traffic from a variety of sources (col. 4, lines 30-44), where these sources include SS7, H323, SIP and other enhanced signaling systems (col. 6, lines 23-35), and where the external network gateway interfaces to a core network via electrical or optical interfaces (col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 13). It would have been

Art Unit: 2633

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the gateway of Berg et al. as one or more of the User Devices of the signaling network of Moy et al. to provide the advantage of interfacing voice, voice over IP, and other signaling services directly with the dynamically provisionable OTN network of Moy et al. to create optical trails through the OTN of dynamic bandwidth corresponding to these additional services.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035411A1) in view of Berg et al. (US Patent No. 6680952) as applied to claims 2, 4-7, 11-14, and 17 above, and further in view of Wei et al. ("Network control and management of a reconfigurable WDM network"; Wei et al.; Military Communications Conference, 1996, IEEE Conference Proceedings, Vol. 2, Oct. 1996, Pages 581-586).

Regarding claim 15, Moy et al. in view of Berg et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 11, wherein said optical components are selected from the group consisting of optical cross connects, add/drop multiplexers and optical service nodes (Moy et al.: paragraphs 0042 and 0048). Moy et al. in view of Berg et al. do not disclose at least one optical cross connect and optical add/drop multiplexer. Wei et al. disclose an optical network where an optical cross connect can serve as an optical add/drop multiplexer when interfaced with external elements (fig. 1 and page 581, col. 2, 1st paragraph of heading 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the optical cross connect of Wei et al. for the optical cross connects of Moy et al. in view of Berg et al., in order to provide the advantage of using an optical cross connect that can also functional as an optical add/drop multiplexer by interfacing the optical cross connect with external elements, such that separate OXC and optical ADM equipment are not required.

7. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035411A1) in view of Milton et al. (US Patent No. 6084694).

Regarding claim 19, Moy et al. disclose a system for providing direct signaling for switching and control of transmissions in an integrated optical network, said system comprising: a signaling apparatus including, a plurality of electrical signaling interfaces (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraph 0048) for receiving requests from external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements UD and IUD and paragraphs 0038 to 0040); a processing module for processing said requests from said external signaling networks (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0065); and at least one optical signaling interface for coupling to optical components in said integrated optical network (fig. 1, elements IUD and TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047), said optical signaling interface being operable to transmit processed requests from said processing module for assignment of optical channels for said optical components (paragraphs 0059 and 0060); and an optical service node including, at least one optical cross connect (OXC) (fig. 1, element TND and paragraph 0048); said OXC including at least one interface to an optical network or other optical components (fig. 2, element TND, 50, 56 and 62 and paragraph 0051), said optical service node coupling to said signaling apparatus through said optical signaling interface wherein signaling processed by said processing module from the external signaling networks is provided directly to the optical network components via said optical signaling interface and is independent of legacy signaling methodologies employed by ones of said external signaling networks (fig. 1, elements TND and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047, where the external signaling is provided directly to the OTN via the TND which includes the optical signaling interface; paragraphs 0041 and 0042, which describe a variety of different possible legacy

Art Unit: 2633

protocols of the UD/IUD external signals; and paragraphs 0099-0102, which describe the signaling across the OTN as independent of the protocols of the external signals, i.e. as based on, for example, MPLS or RSVP; and paragraphs 0039, 0040 and 0047). Moy et al. do not disclose that the optical service node has at least one optical add/drop multiplexer (OADM) in addition to the OXC, the OADM including electrical interfaces to circuit switched and packet switched fabrics. Milton et al. disclose an optical add/drop multiplexer that uses WDM and is protocol and bit rate independent (col. 2, lines 11-29) with optical interfaces to the OTN side and electrical interfaces to the client side (col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to interface the OADM of Milton et al. with the optical TND apparatus of Moy et al. to provide the advantage of being able to add/drop the various signals from the Moy et al. network that are in a native electrical format external to the optical network, in addition to the disclosed optical cross connecting optical signals of the Moy et al. network at the optical TND apparatus.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 31 October 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims 1, 8-10 and 16, the applicant argues that Moy does not show or suggest a signaling system that operates to interface multiple legacy external systems to an integrated optical network independently of the signaling techniques/protocols of those multiple external signaling systems. However, as the examiner already responded in the last office action, Moy describes the external systems of the UD/IUD devices as legacy systems, including IP routers, ATM switches, SONET add/drop multiplexers, or wavelength switches (paragraph 0042), all of which indicate external networks.

The applicant also argues that the only signaling addressed by Moy is that between an end user device and an input node to the optical network, and that this signaling will be electrical in most cases, with no suggestion of conversion to optical form for interfacing with the optical network. However, this argument is not persuasive. Moy discusses the signaling between an external "user device" (which indicates an entire external network in the case of the user device being an IP router, ATM switch, SONET mux, etc.) and the optical network, as well as signaling within the optical network. The applicant's assertion that the signaling between a user device and the OTN in Moy will be electrical in most cases is unfounded. Moy discloses electrical or optical signaling between user devices and the OTN (paragraphs 0039, 0041 and 0047). The applicant's additional assertion, that Moy does not suggest conversion to optical form for interfacing with the optical network, is simply false. Moy discloses E-O conversion by the user devices (UD/IUD) (paragraph 0041 in light of paragraph 0039, which indicates paragraph 0041 applies to both UDs and IUDs) as well as the OTN interfaces (TNDs) (paragraph 0048). See also paragraph 0065 which discusses the OTNUDI functions performed by both the TNDs and UDs/IUDs.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2633


however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to N. Curs whose telephone number is (571) 272-3028. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (from 9 AM to 5 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached at (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (800) 786-9199.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://paired.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JASON CHAN
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